

# Marine Fisheries Information Service

**Technical and  
Extension Series**



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**First record of ocean sunfish, *Mola mola*  
from Malabar coast**

Ocean sunfishes of the family Molidae are large pelagic fishes rarely found along the south-west coast of India. Presently, four species are recognised under this family throughout the world. They are the common

mola, *Mola mola*, the sharp-tailed mola, *Masturus lanceolatus*, southern sunfish, *Mola ramsayi* and the slender mola, *Ranzania laevis*. The most common of the ocean sunfishes is the *Mola mola*. It is

distributed worldwide from the tropical to temperate seas.

An ocean sunfish, *Mola mola* was landed in Beypore fishing harbour, Calicut on 14.12.06. It was caught in trawl net which operated north-west off Calicut at a depth of 70 m. The morphometric measurement of the specimen is presented in Table 1. The specimen is preserved in the museum for future reference.

Table 1. Morphometric measurements (cm) of *Mola mola*

Total length	70
Standard length	58
Dorsal length	45
Anal length	48
Dorsal fin length	31
Dorsal fin base width	12
Anal fin length	31

Anal fin base width	12
Pectoral fin length	11
Pectoral fin base width	4.5
Pectoral length	22
Eye diameter	4
Snout length	8.5
Body depth	52
Length of gill slit	5
Inter orbit length	19
Dorsal fin tip to anal fin tip length	114
Caudal height	48
Caudal length	12
Upper jaw length	4.5
Lower jaw length	2
Pre orbital length	11
Pelvic fin	Absent
Total Weight	19kg

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